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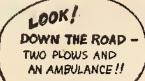






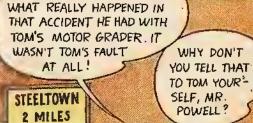






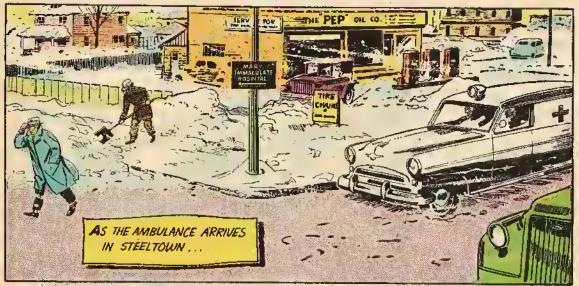


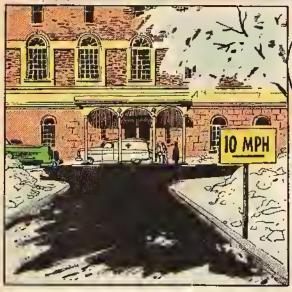






WHY DON'T















I WAS JUST HOPING YOU'D SHOW





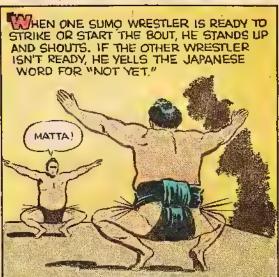












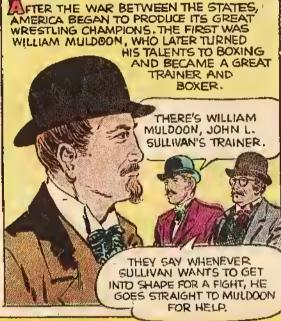


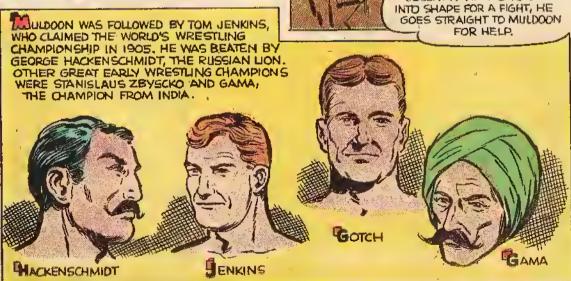




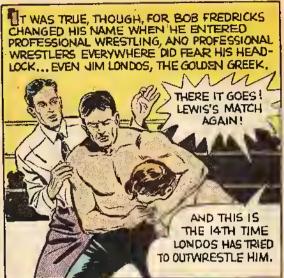






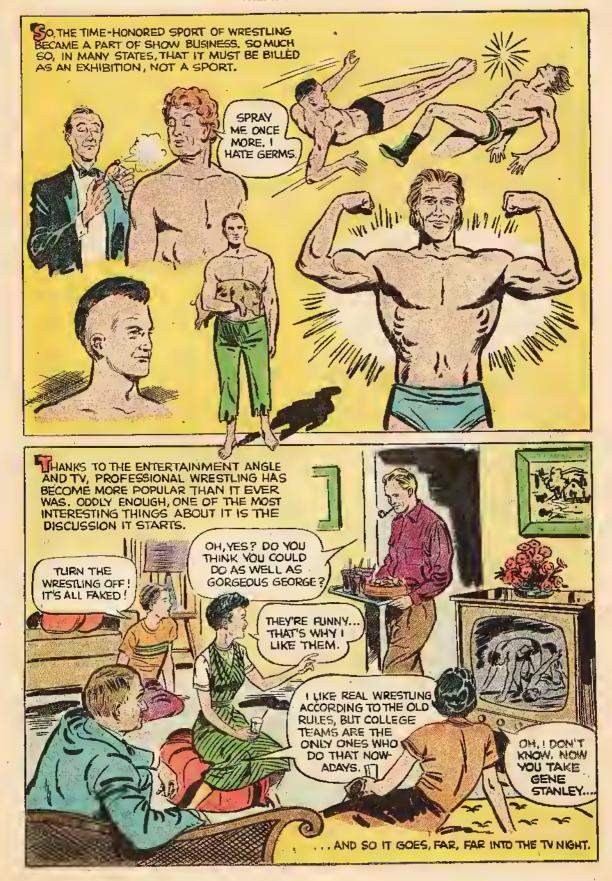


















Phantom of the High Ledges FERRIS WEDDLE



The high mountain meadow was small, hemmed in by the sharp ledges of the canyon walls. The sleek mare crapped the high grass while she kept watchful eyes an the cream-calared colt which played in the sunlight. But the mare and her colt were not alone.

Stretched out an a ledge was the lang, tawny form of a cougar, or mountain lion. Its tail switched back and forth, and its yellowish eyes neverleft the mare and colt."

Slawly, inch by inch, hidden from the harse by some bunches of grass, the cougar crept farward. He was about ten feet above the meadow floor and some twenty feet from the mare. It was the calt, however, that the lion really wanted. But the mare had to be killed first.

A breeze suddenly distribed the meadow, bringing with it the dread scent of the lian. The mare jerked her head up and called her calt with an alarmed neigh. The calt, fearful because the mare was afraid, dashed to its mather. The mare was glancing wildly about, trying to locate the source of danger. She prepared to run, whirling near the ledge.

The caugar waited no langer. His long bady flew through the air, straight for the neck of the mare. The horse twisted about, screaming a warning to her calt. She kicked desperately as the lian landed on her rump, clawing. Then she whirled, snorling with fear, managing to shake the cat laase. She pawed at the crouched farm, baring her teeth.

The colt, thoroughly terrified, ran around and around the struggling pair, squealing and snart-ina.

Snarling, the cougar sprang at the mare's shoulder, trying to reach her throat. His claws raked great wounds in her shoulder and breast, but once again she managed to knock the big cat off with her forefeet. She followed up, continuing to paw and kick.

Crippled, the lion dragged himself back against the canyon wall. He did not try to follow the mare as she whistled shrilly and ran down the meadow, the colt at her side. The caugar had last the battle.

This mare and her colt were lucky, for usually the pawerful caugar does not fail to kill his prey. Full-grawn harses, cattle, and the largest of big game have fallen under the lian's pawerful, savage leaps.

The caugar, also known as mountain lian, puma, panther, painter, and other names, is the largest predatory animal in North America besides the jaguar. Once it existed over almost all the United States, but today it is found only in Florida and

in the states west of the Mississippi river. In the West the war against the big cot has continued until only about eleven states have a cougar population of any size. Those states are Arizono, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, New Mexico, Texas, Utoh, and Washingtan. Wyoming has a few, and occasionally the cats wander into other states.

Always the mystery cat, the cougar is a phantam that haunts the high, rocky country, occosionally raiding sheep and cattle ranches in the lower country. A shy creature, like most members of the cat family, the cougar is seldom glimpsed by mon unless dogs are used to chase it down.

There are cases on record in which the puma has attacked man. Near Silver City, New Mexico, a ranch wife was hanging up her washing near from the kitchen table, attempting to stab the snatling cat as it clawed at the fallen, fighting woman. The lion cowered away, and prepared to leap at the man. The man, having no time to get his rifle hanging above the fireplace, grabbed a bucket of water from a near-by table and dashed it into the lion's face. Spitting, the confused cot whirled and ron into another room and under a bed. The rancher jerked his rifle from the wall, throwing a cartridge into the firing chamber as he ran into the room.

The lion, apparently as terrified now as the people, tried to get past the man through the door, but the rancher's bullet knocked it over, killing it instantly.

The ranch wife was scratched, but otherwise not seriously hurt. Upon examination, it was found

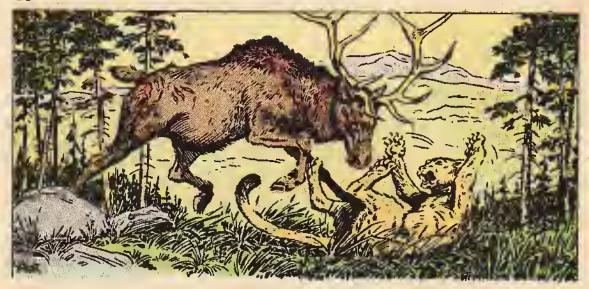


the house. Suddenly she heard a snarl and looked up to see a yellow body leaping toward her. Screaming at her husband who was near the corrols, she fled to the open door of the cobin. She could not get the door closed quickly enough and the lion bounded in ofter her, striking her down.

The husband ron to the house, his wife's screoms ringing in his ears. He grabbed a knife

that the cougar was on old one and that it was thin from starvation.

In almost all cases of lion attacks on people, it has been discovered that the animal was old, diseased, or storving. These rare cases of attack have not lessened man's fear of the big cats, however. Many hunters and outdoorsmen hove related that they have been followed by cougars, which often come right into their camps. Natural-



ists say it is curiosity that makes the cats do this—and addly, perhaps, a desire for company.

There have been amozing cases in which the cougar has mode friends with people. One case, said to be true, concerns a young ranch girl in Oregon who not only made friends with an adult cougar, but also often met and ramped with the animal in the woods. Another cougar was seen ramping and playing with a coyote pup!

It is little wonder that the cougar is America's mystery animal! Still, in stock and in biggome country, it is considered public enemy number one. Sheepmen have reported that one lian may kill from fifty to a hundred sheep in one night. Early-day horse ranchers in out-of-the-way spots often lost entire bands to the big cats, for the cougar is very fond of horse meat.

Big gome, especially deer, is the main diet of the lion, however Biologists estimate that an average of two deer per week are killed by each adult lion. For this reason both state and federal wildlife agencies keep control of the cougar through hunting and trapping.

Even the huge elk is not safe from the cougor's attack. But sometimes such an attack proves fotal for the cougar, as one lion found out too late in the wild country of central Idaho.

It was late one ofternoon, and the elk, his great antiers weighting down his head, browsed peacefully in a forest glade. Feeling the need to scratch, the big onimal began to rub its shoulders against a giant yellow pine. Some noise in the low-lying branch above caused the bull elk to raise its head in alarm. Too lote the elk saw the cougar crouched to spring. It whitled, and thus the cat's claws and

sharp teeth missed the vital spinal cord of the prey.

With the cougar clinging to its rump, the elk dashed through the underbrush, trying to loosen its unwelcome passenger. Terrified, desperate, the elk obruptly whirled into the huge trunk of a pine. The blow, coupled with the tremendous weight of the elk, dazed the cougar. Immediately the elk whirled about and began to paw the stunned lion with sharp hoofs. Even after there was no sign of life in the tawny body, the elk continued to hook and pow. Then, bleeding from its wounds, still crozed with tear, the elk ran along the trail that led to a neor-by ranch.

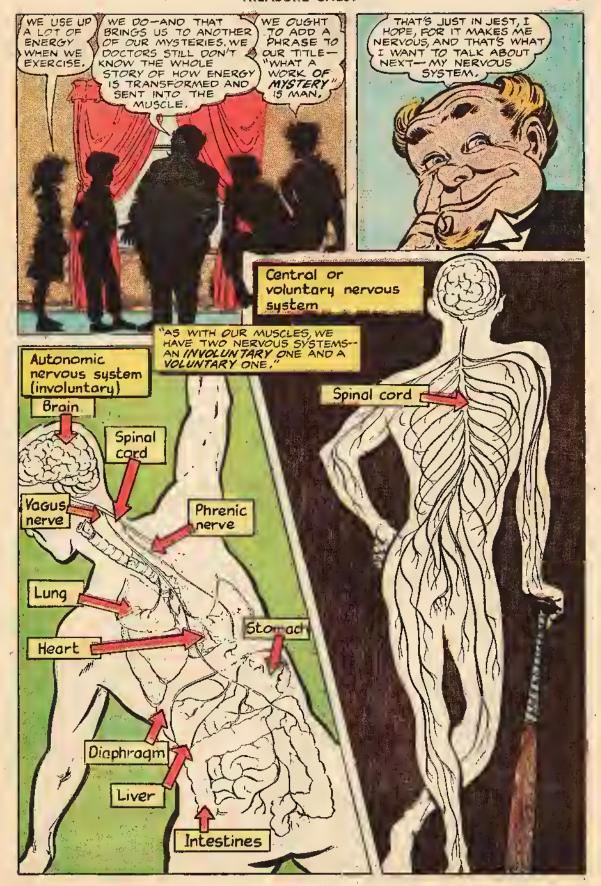
Amozed ranch workers saw the exhausted, bleeding elk, and immediately guessed the cause. They bock-trailed to the spot where the cougar's / mutilated body lay. Another story had been added to the many about the ghost cats!

Almost all the western states mentioned earlier pay a bounty on cougar. In each state there are state hunters and trappers as well as private hunters who follow the trails in the high ledges, searching out the big cots with dogs and traps: Mountain-lion hunting has become a major sport in many areas because of its excitement. Yet, the lion is protected, as is all wildlife, in notional parks. No real sportsman, naturalist, or conservation agency has a desire to kill all the cougars. They have their place in the wildlife scene. They are a part of the romance of the West. Phontom of the high ledges, killer or ployful cat, making men's spines tingle with his scream and by his curious stalking, the mystery cat will live on in the primitive country of the West

" THE END

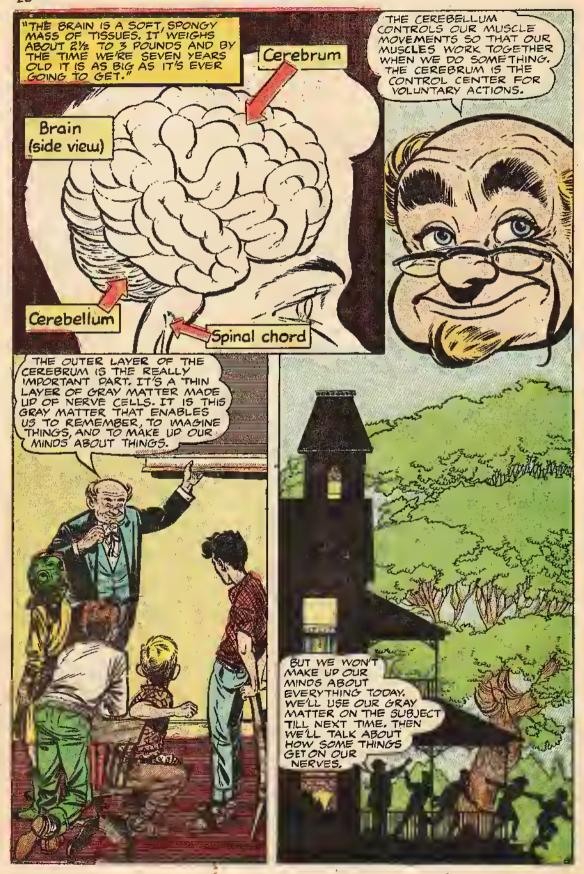








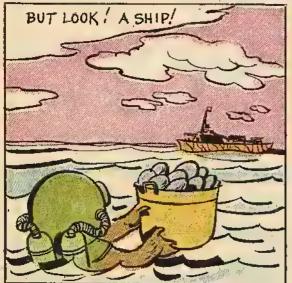




THE BEARL DIVERS BY ERIC ST. CLAIR ILLUSTRATED BY PAUL EISMANN

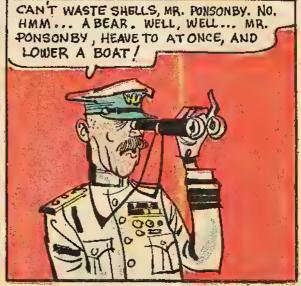
BASELY DESERTED BY WALLABY WILLIE, THE BEAR FLOATS ON THE SEA. HE CANNOT REMOVE HIS DIVING HELMET, SO HE FLOATS --- WAITING FOR THE OXYGEN TO GIVE OUT... FLOATING... WAITING...

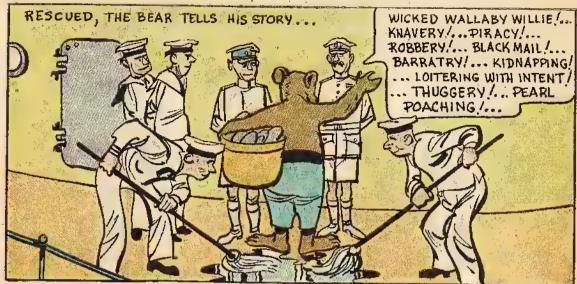








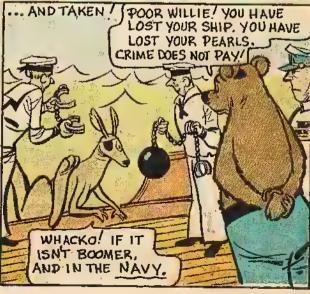




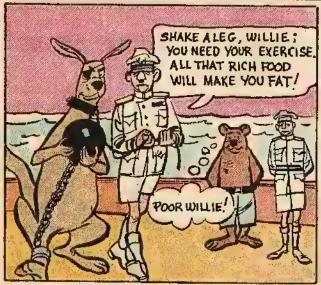










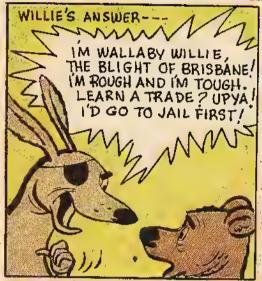






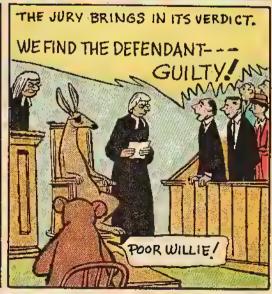
















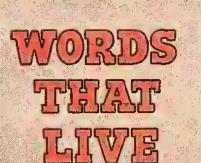
SIR, I REPRESENT A FIRM OF PEARL FISHERS. WOULD YOU GUIDE US TO YOUR PEARL BEDS? THE MARKER BUOYS THE GUNBOAT LEFT WERE ALL WASHED AWAY BY THE TYPHOON. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE A PERFECT SENSE OF











Captain James Lawrence

by F.E Crandall Illustrated by Paul Zender

THE "CHESAPEAKE" IS COM-MANDED BY YOUNG CAPTAIN LAWRENCE, WHO HAS ALREADY EARNED A REPUTATION FOR BRAV-ERY IN PREVIOUS NAVAL BATTLES.

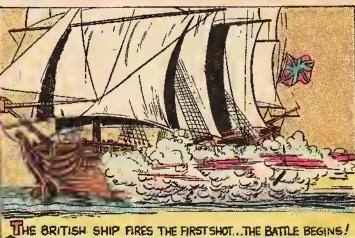


THE "CHESAPEAKE" REPLIES WITH A FULL BROADSIDE





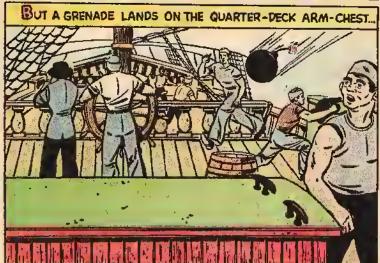
ON JUNE 18, 1812, THE U.S. WENT TO WAR WITH ENGLAND FOR THE SECONDTIME, TO KEEP BRITISH SHIPS FROM PRESSING AMERICAN SAILORS INTO THEIR SERVICE. ALMOST ONE YEAR LATER, THE AMERICAN SHIP "CHESAPEAKE" CHALLENGES THE BRITISH "SHANNON"



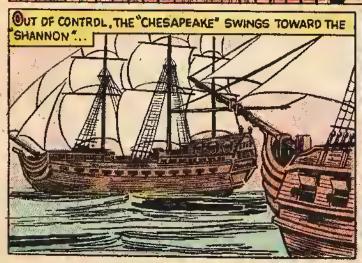




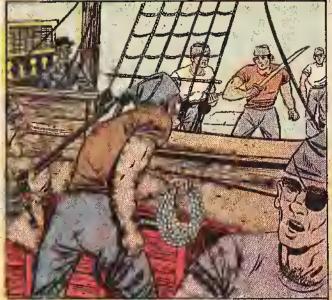


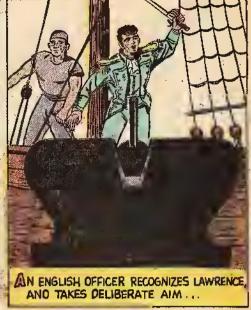










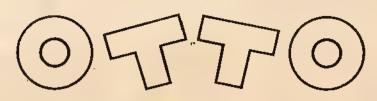


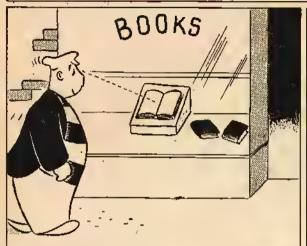






GAPTAIN LAWRENCE'S DYING WORDS BECAME A BATTLE CRY FOR ALL AMERICAN SEAMEN. SHOUTING IT, THEY WENT OUT TO MEET THE ENEMY ... AND DEFEATED HIM. AND THOSE WORDS HAVE LIVED ON ... TODAY, ALMOST 150 YEARS LATER, WE STILL USE THEM TO RALLY THOSE WHO WOULD DESERT A WORTHY FIGHT TOO QUICKLY.

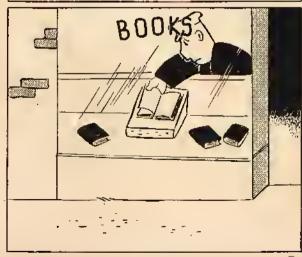


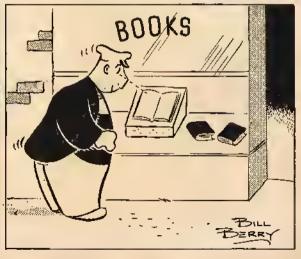


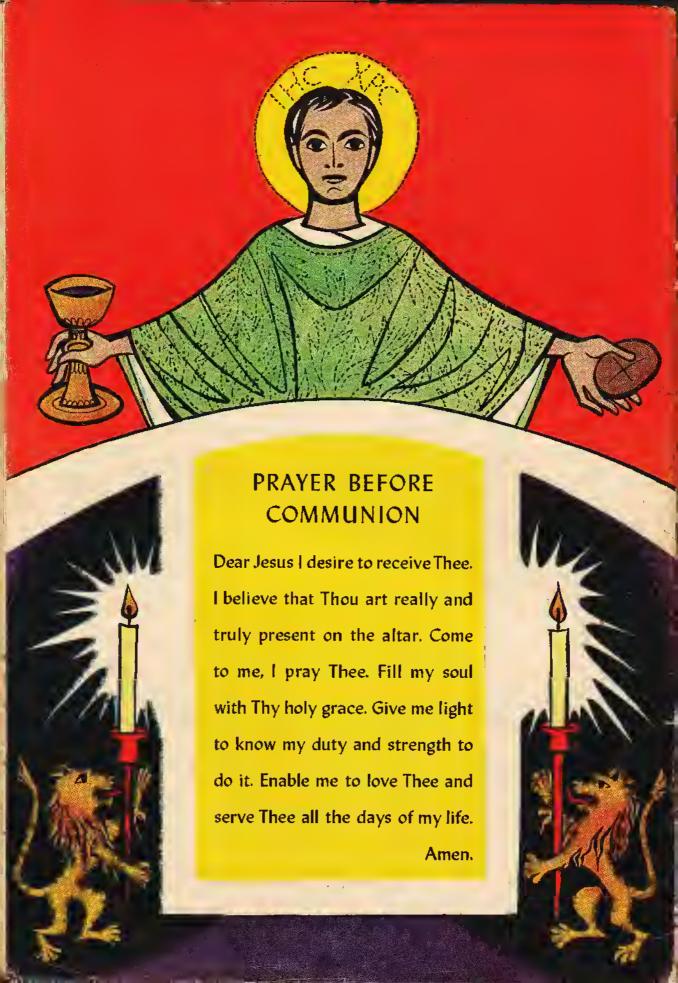














Treasure Chest #v10_15 (1955)

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